

St. Paul Parish
Parish Pastoral Council meeting
November 22nd, 2016

Attendees:

Fr. Kelly, Fr. Murphy, Richard Peisch, Chris Cassani, Jill Fallon, Angela Jones, Martin Etcheverry, Leslie McCarthy, Aneta Wronski, Bill Sullivan.

Absent:

Fr. Salzmann, Paul Haley, Carlos Diaz.

The Pastoral Parish Council meeting was held in the media room of the St. Paul's Harvard Catholic Center and opened with a prayer.

Cleaning and decorating the church:

Cleaning and decorating of the church for Christmas will be done after the noon mass on December 23rd, 2016. The Advent wreath, traditionally suspended in the middle of the church, will not be hung during the Advent season because of ceiling work currently being completed. A regular Advent wreath is placed at the altar. Fr. Kelly has communicated this decision to the parishioners through the weekly bulletin.

Finance Council initiative for weekly offertory increase:

On December 8th, 2016 a meeting of the Finance Council will be held with the added attendance of a team from the archdiocese and some parish staff members. The purpose of the meeting will be to look at revenue issues as they relate to the weekly collection. Fr. Kelly would like to set a goal of \$10,000 per week for offertory donations, currently between \$3,000 to \$4,000 per week. The Finance Council is looking for ideas to help mobilize parishioners and guests to give more. The meeting group will be discussing communication, outreach, parish goals, community, ownership etc.

Church ceiling lights update:

The project is coming along very well but will not be finished by Christmas. The final goal is for the church to be lit more brightly and effectively. The lights will be refocused to help accomplish this goal and to highlight the inner church from an artistic perspective. The full job is scheduled to be completed mid to late January 2017.

Christmas concert and tickets:

The annual boys choir Christmas Concert will be held on December 4th, 2016, December 11th, 2016 and December 18th, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$25.00 and \$35.00. All upcoming parish concerts are listed on the parish website. In general the participation for these concerts has decreased through the years and as such, there is definite need of an Advancement Director at the Choir School to help with marketing, branding and advertising. A consultant is

already in place to help start the process with the end goal of hiring a suitable Advancement Director.

Christmas Mass schedule:

Saturday December 24th, 2016 masses will be held at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday December 25th, 2016 masses will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Spring Concert:

A spring concert is planned for May 7th, 2017 with a French music theme, followed by a 'wine and cheese' reception in the courtyard. This will be a linked project between the parish and choir school, and hopefully first of very many to come. The participation over the years has dwindled and everyone is asked to spread the word and come support the event.

Other business:

- The Choir School gala will be held April 1st, 2017. The parish council is encouraged to support the event with a table. Last year approximately \$85,000 was raised in support of the school.
- Mary-Jane Higgins is taking the lead on improving the look of room 202 in the Student Center. The room should be completed in the New Year.
- The Library Committee is currently working on weeding through the parish's book collection in an effort to select the best and most relevant works to be displayed in the reading room. The new reading room will be host to approximately 1,000 titles and available to every parishioner.
- The Apple Pie Bake-a-thon weekend is scheduled as usual for Super Bowl weekend, February 3rd to 5th, 2017.
- Disciples in Mission update: Fr. Kelly is meeting the pastor of the combined St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart parishes so both can find mutually suitable dates for Disciples in Mission workshops. The workshops would be held at the Watertown parishes but open to St. Paul's parishioners.
- The Parish Council discussed the idea of starting a Social Justice group with a focus on the homeless in Harvard Square and elderly/sick parishioners who have a hard time arriving for mass every week. There was much discussion, ideas and excitement among the council members.
- A proposal was brought forward to install CCTV cameras in the church for the purpose of broadcasting the mass in the family room (hallway of Student Center just outside the church). There is already discussion of putting a speaker up in the balcony for the choir and of broadcasting the 11:00 a.m. mass on Cambridge cable TV. No decision has been made.
- The Parish Council will gather in the rectory on Tuesday December 13th, 2016 for a little festive Christmas celebration.

The Parish Pastoral Council meeting ended with a closing prayer.

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will take place on January 9th, 2017.